

Message Text

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TAGS: TECH, PINR, IAEA, CA
SUBJ: NOMINATIONS FOR DIRECTOR NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

REF: AMMONS SCICOUNS TELECON JANUARY 19, 1976

1. THIS MESSAGE RESPONDS TO A TELECON REQUEST FOR EMBASSY
EVALUATION RELATIVE MERITS TWO CANADIAN CANDIDATES BEING PUT
FORWARD FOR DIRECTORSHIP DIVISION NUCLEAR SAFETY AND ENVIRON-
MENTAL PROTECTION AT IAEA. EMBASSY SCICOUNS PERSONALLY KNOWS
BOTH CANDIDATES AND HAS MADE SEVERAL DISCREET INQUIRIES WITH
FOLLOWING RESULTS:

A. BOYD - FRED BOYD WAS ONE OF FORMER AECB PRESIDENT GEORGE
LAURENCE'S HANDPICKED MEN WHEN HE BEGAN STAFFING UP AECB TO
MEET REGULATORY WORKLOAD THAT BEGAN TO INCREASE SHARPLY IN
LATE 50S AND EARLY 60S. BOYD IS LIKEABLE, PERSONABLE, AND
HIGHLY QUALIFIED TECHNICALLY. WHEN GEORGE LAURENCE RETIRED,
BOYD WAS SO IDENTIFIED WITH THE LAURENCE PHILOSOPHY THAT HE
BAILED OUT OF THE CONTROL BOARD AND JOINED JOHN RUNNALS, ANOTHER
ATOMIC ENERGY "OLD TIMER" WHOM THE FORMER DEPUTY MINISTER OF
THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY, MINES, AND RESOURCES HAD PICKED UP FROM
AECL AS SENIOR ADVISER ON URANIUM PROBLEMS. THUS FRED HAS
EXCELLENT BUT RATHER NARROW QUALIFICATIONS AND HAS NEVER HAD THE
EXPERIENCE OF EITHER RUNNING A GOOD SIZED ORGANIZATION HIMSELF
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OR DEALING FROM A SUPERVISORY POSITION WITH ANYTHING SEVEN

APPROACHING THE COMPLEXITY OF AN IAEA DIVISION.

B. MILLAR - WHEN SCICOUNS LEFT CHALK RIVER IN 1967, CHARLIE MILLAR WAS A RELATIVELY YOUNG REACTOR PHYSICIST "ON THE WAY UP". MILLAR, TOO, HAS IMPECCABLE TECHNICAL CREDENTIALS. HENCE THERE IS VERY LITTLE TO CHOOSE FROM BETWEEN THE CANDIDATES IN TERMS OF PURE TECHNICAL ABILITY. MILLAR WAS, HOWEVER, SUBSEQUENTLY HANDPICKED BY THE NOW SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF AECL, ARCHIE AIKEN, TO HEAD UP THE REACTOR PHYSICS DIVISION AT CHALK RIVER. FOR THOSE UNFAMILIAR WITH AIKEN, THIS IS A QUALIFICATION NOT TO BE TAKEN LIGHTLY. WHEN IT COMES TO FILLING PERSONNEL POSITION, AIKEN IS AN EXECUTIVE WHO IS REMARKABLY PRACTICAL AND SAGACIOUS. MILLAR HAS SUPERVISED ORGANIZATIONS OF BETWEEN 100 TO 150 PEOPLE IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS AND DONE SO SUCCESSFULLY. HE IS A HARD WORKER WITH JUST ENOUGH CYNICISM TO PROTECT HIM IN SOMETHING LIKE THE IAEA MILIEU. SEVERAL SENIOR CANADIANS WHOSE JUDGMENT SCICOUNS VALUES IN MATTERS SUCH AS THIS, FEEL THAT HE HAS THE PRESENCE TO CARRY OFF THE JOB FOR WHICH HE HAS BEEN NOMINATED WITHOUT EITHER ALLOWING HIMSELF TO BE PUSHED AROUND EXCESSIVELY BY POLITICAL FORCES OR BEING SO VERY RIGID AS TO MAKE A PROBLEM OF SOMETHING THAT DID NOT DESERVE TO BE A PROBLEM.

2. FROM INFORMATION ABOVE, EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT WHILE BOTH CANDIDATES ARE TECHNICALLY WELL QUALIFIED AND WOULD PROBABLY DO A REASONABLY GOOD JOB, THE ODDS GIVEN THE SITUATION WOULD APPEAR TO FAVOR MILLAR.

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